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Northwest Washington Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Soundings

Vol. 27, Issue 3 March 2011

Free At Last!

Southern Sudans Struggle for Freedom

by Maurice (Maury) Clark, member of Our Savior's in Issaquah

Hundreds of thousands sought refuge from the longest civil war in African history. The conflict in Southern Sudan lasted more than 21 years, and by some measures, all the way back to the end of British colonialism in 1956.

Nearly half of the entire population were either killed, or fled in terror to hastily established refugee camps in Kenya, Egypt and Ethiopia. More than two million people simply ceased to exist- an entire generation of young men and boys- along with another million persons displaced around the world. The *Lost Boys Of Sudan* came to represent the tragedy of ethnic annihilation.

The war finally ended with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005. Colin Powell represented the United States, and was largely the architect of the final resolution. The CPA mandated a referendum for unity or independence, and the vote was scheduled for January 2011.

January 2011 came with this question: "How can a people consisting of many tribes, decimated by war and starvation, be certain that the referendum will be truly representative and incorruptible?" The Southern Sudanese Referendum

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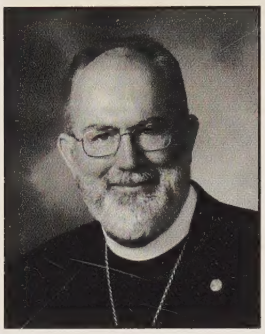
A Word From The Bishop

"I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers."
Ephesians 1:16 NRSV



The Rev Wm Chris Boerger

Knowing that the *Soundings* is primarily read by the leaders of our congregations, I want to say thank you to you.

This is an interesting time to be a leader in the church. Much of what we are addressing in congregational and synodical planning was not on our radar when we accepted God's call to be leaders in the church. Yet these are the times in which we live, and yours are the gifts God knows we need to be the church in these days.

It is easy to reflect on the things we do not have. I am always accused by Jesus' words to the disciples in the story of the feeding of the 5000, "You give them something to eat." I quickly join the disciples in trying to excuse my short comings with the "where will we find enough." The system is not working. We are in trouble.

God still calls us to be disciples in this time. We do have enough. We have the word and the sacraments. We have the story of God's grace for us. We have Jesus' command that we make disciples. You are proof that God has given the church what it needs to serve in this time.

The stories of faith and fellowship that I hear when visiting congregations are inspiring. The Holy Spirit is at work in our existing congregations, as well as in our new ministries. It is easy to become discouraged in these times of anxiety and uncertainty. I want to thank you for the faithful leadership that you are providing. You are a gift from God to this community and the world.

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A Word From The Bishop

We have much yet to do. Before I start sharing ideas about what additional work you and I are called to do, I want to express my thanks to you and to God for your faithful service. I am often the one who shows up when there is conflict or transition in the life of a congregation. I have stopped counting the number of times someone has greeted me with the words, "Are we in trouble?" as I come through the front door. No, you are not in trouble. Your service in Jesus' name is what the world needs.

We will continue to face challenges in this time of transition. Ministry is hard work. It is the Lord of the harvest who has sent you into this field. God will provide what we need to do the work that is before us. For that I give thanks to God for you.

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Deadline for copy of the April 2011 issue of Soundings is Wednesday, March 2. Current and archived issues can be found on the synod's website.

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Money In Your Pocket

Take The Health Assessment

The synod staff in Seattle have all completed the Board of Pensions Mayo Clinic Embody Health Assessment. And it was painless! Join us in being good stewards for ourselves, for the synod, and our congregations by taking the assessment today.

Each congregation in the Northwest Washington synod will receive a 2% discount on contributions for all of 2011 if 65% or more of the eligible ELCA-primary plan members and spouses in our synod complete the online Mayo Clinic Health Assessment by April 30. Our estimated collective savings for 2011 is $32,000.

Completing the assessment earns you a $150 credit in your personal wellness account to offset out-of-pocket medical expenses. (I received my check for 2010 this week.) On top of that you have the opportunity to earn an additional $300 by completing follow-up activities. (Retired persons will not earn credits to a personal wellness account.)

If you have ELCA-primary health benefits, please plan to take a few minutes to complete the assessment. You don't need to know your numbers to complete the assessment. Make your best guess or leave that question blank. If you don't have ELCA-primary health benefits, do your part by making sure the rostered leaders in your congregation have completed their assessment. You will save your congregation and synod money!

Learn more about the assessment at the ELCA Board of Pensions website, https://www.elcabop.org. A link to the the Mayo Clinic Embody Health web portal is available on the Board of Pensions website.)

If you have questions or would like help with the assessment, please call the synod office. We'd be happy to help!

Assembly News

Friday, May 13 and Saturday, May 14, at the Lynnwood Convention Center

The 2011 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly will take place on Friday, May 13, and Saturday, May 14, at the Lynnwood Convention Center in Lynnwood

The theme for this year's assembly is centered around two ELCA Campaigns: the ELCA Malaria Campaign and the ELCA HIV and AIDS Campaign. Offerings will be given to the two campaigns and, locally, given to the organization African Americans Reach and Teach Health (Learn more on page 6.)

In sub-Saharan Africa, one in five childhood deaths is due to malaria. And AIDS has claimed the lives of more than 25 million people worldwide with sub-Saharan Africa hardest hit by this pandemic. Learn how the ELCA is responding at www.lutheransnw.org/assembly. This year's Assembly will require voting members to elect members to the Consultation Committee and the Discipline Committee.

Nominations and resolutions are due to the Synod Office by March 1. The Resolution and Nomination Forms are available on the homepage (under Spotlight) as well as on the Synod Assembly page.

As material becomes available, documents will be posted on-line on the assembly website. Material will not be mailed to congregations prior to the assembly. (Notebooks with the materials posted on the website will be available at the Assembly.)

Voting members, observers, and visitors will again need to *register on-line* through the synod's website.

Please check back to the synod's website often at **www.lutheransnw.org.**

Assembly Co-Coordinators are Carolyn Norton, member at St. Luke's in Bellevue, and Debi Gatto, member at Glendale Lutheran in Burien. They can be reached at synodassembly@lutheransnw.org.

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Free At Last!

Commission (SSRC) was created by the CPA, and it then contracted with the International Organization on Migration (IOM) to create an infrastructure that would be credible world-wide.

And the people came!

Dinka, Nuer, Shilluk. Kuku, Acholli, and members of all of the great tribes of Southern Sudan. The staff at the Referendum Center in Seattle, and their counterparts around the world, experienced the joyful cry of "Southern Sudan OYEE!"

Freedom won by an overwhelming margin exceeding 99.5%, and the new nation of Southern Sudan became a reality, created out of a free election after decades of struggle, war and privation

On July 9, 2011, my Sudanese children and I, along with about two hundred of the People, will travel from the United States and Canada to Juba, the new capitol of this great new nation to participate in the birth of Southern Sudan. OYEEEEEEEEE!

Editor's Note: Maury Clark is the adoptive father of seven Dinka, the youngest of whom is 14 years old.

Offering Recipient

The local organization called African Americans Reach and Teach Health Ministry (AARTH) will be one of the offering recipients from this year's Synod Assembly. AARTH is a faith-based nonprofit organization established to respond to HIV/AIDS and other major health issues affecting people of African descent. The organization works with the Northwest AIDS Education and Training Center at the University of Washington. Learn more at www.aarth.org.

Souper Bowl Sunday

Helping The Hungry

One of the confirmation small groups (of 7th grade girls) at Holy Spirit in Kirkland held a Souper Bowl Sunday as their small group project. They had a great time including counting the money. They raised more than $1200.

The Souper Bowl Sunday website says that , so far in 2011, $7,125,934 has been generated by 7,924 groups!

Read The Qur'an

In Four Weeks

Check out this unique class with Pastor Ron Marshall (First of West Seattle) who has been teaching it four times a year since 2003. Classes are from 7-9 p.m., April 7, 14 (not 21) 28 and May 5. The $50 fee includes your own approved translation of the Qur'an, plus more than 100 handouts on the Qur'an by Islamic scholars. Worksheets on the Qur'an guide your reading in preparation for each class. Pastors are welcome to use the materials to teach the class in their own churches. To register or make inquiries, contact Pastor Marshall at 206-935-6530; deogloria@foxinternet.com.

Men And Women Gather

Lutheran Men in Mission

You are invited on a life changing adventure. Register now for the *Building Men and Men's Ministry for Christ* Mini-Retreat from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, at Bethlehem in Marysville. Registration fee is $50 per person. The retreat will be led by Doug Haugen, ELCA's Lutheran Men in Mission Exec. Director. If you have questions contact Ron Sailer at 360-658-0461 or at rksailer@gmail.com

Women Gather

The Eighth Triennial Gathering for the Women of the ELCA's will be held July 14 - 17 in Spokane, Wash. Take time out of your busy life to build lasting memories with your mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, cousins and best friends you call sisters. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to build fellowship among generations. For more information including registration and costs please visit http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Women-of-the-ELCA/Triennial-Convention-and-Gathering/Triennial-Gathering.aspx.

Gracious Space

Having Difficult Conversations

This workshop is about gaining the tools that help congregations and other groups to have the conversations that are difficult to have.

This workshop will help you learn to create a Spirit filled setting that honor all voices, allow people to have difficult conversations and arrive at creative solutions.

Speakers are Jennifer Castle, Coordinator of Shared Ministry at Plymouth Church, and the Rev. Kris Ostrem, UCC. Cost: $30 per person, $25 for congregational teams of three or more. Workshop will be held from 8:30 to noon on Saturday, Feb. 26 at Plymouth Church, 217 Sixth Ave, Seattle, 98101. For more information visit www.clnorthwest.org/ and click "Events and Seminars."

LPPO Update

Most Sundays representatives from the Lutheran Public Policy Office are at congregations presenting about the work of the LPPO. These presentations range from leading the adult education hour, preaching, to meeting with interested congregation members after the service.

The goal of these visits is to encourage congregations to get involved in the work of advocacy, along with the LPPO.

On Sunday, January 23, the representatives from the LPPO were in three different locations!

LPPO Director, Paul Benz, was at The Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist in Spokane; Director of Congregational Relations, David Hacker, was at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Spokane; and seminary intern, Ryan Cosgrove, was at Peace Lutheran Church in West Seattle.

To inquire about setting up an LPPO Sunday at your congregation, call the LPPO office at 206-464-4133 and ask for David Hacker.

Another way congregations, and individuals, can get involved in congregational advocacy is at the InterFaith Advocacy Day. This event is on Thursday, March 17, in Olympia. InterFaith Advocacy Day is an event with broad support, and all faith communities are invited to attend.

We'll gather at United Churches, 110 11th Ave SE at 8:30 a.m. and move to the Columbia Room in the State Capitol at noon. Appointments and meetings should be finished by 3 p.m.

To register for this event please visit the Washington Association of Churches website and click the InterFaith Advocacy Day link: http://thewac.org/2010/11/22/religious-coalition-for-tax-reform-seattle-meeting/.

Make A Difference

Make a Difference in Washington State! All are invited to an Advocacy Training will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 27, at Zion Lutheran Church in Ferndale (Custer), 7215 Valley View Road, Ferndale (exit 266/ Grandview, go west, turn right on Valley View,).

Learn various ways to be a faith-based advocate individually, within your faith community, and as a citizen lobbyist in Olympia. The session will be facilitated by staff of Lutheran Public Policy Office of WA and will include State legislative priorities for our most vulnerable, tool kit on effective lobbying and advocacy, group brainstorming and planning for local interfaith opportunities in Whatcom County, information about Interfaith Advocacy Day in Olympia on March 17 and organizing carpooling to the March 17 event. Contact: Debi Covert-Bowlds, 360-393-4783 or 206-375-7276.

Grace In Cyber-Space

Sharing The Gospel In A Post-Digital Age

The 2011 Lavik Series explores a faithful presence in cyberspace and using digital media to share about Jesus and the Good News, with the Rev. Eric H.F. Law as featured presenter.

The theme, *Grace in Cyber-Space: Sharing the Gospel in a Post-Digital Age,* will be held on April 8-9 at Trinity Lutheran College, Everett.

Combining hands-on experience and theological-ethical reflection on the impact of computer technologies, this series of lectures and workshops will provide insight for living in a diverse and digitally-expanded world. There is no cost to attend – including two meals. The Lavik Series is an annual lecture event highlighting a current topic related to global evangelism, supported by the Lavik Endowment at Trinity. For more information or to register online, visit www.tlc.edu/lavik, or call Tracy Weber at 425-249-4765.

A Great Gift

Looking for a great gift for a high school or college Graduation? Confirmation? Wedding? Kindergarten Graduation?

Prayerfully consider the ELCA Mission Investment Fund (MIF)....purchase an investment, and start someone out on a plan that helps them, AND builds the church. When the MIF lends money to ministries to become accessible, energy efficient or for a new roof, the money is only available because individuals and congregations invest in the MIF.

When you give an MIF investment you are: teaching the recipient about stewardship, and that where we invest our money does make a difference. By investing with MIF you help ministries that desire to grow their mission and out reach, be able to borrow the money needed.

FYI: MIF investments currently support 12 congregations/ministries in this synod.

Thanks for your part in spreading the gospel. For applications and more information, contact: margie.fiedler@elca.org , 208-664-7973; or visit: www.elca.org/mif or toll free 877-886-3522.

Resource for Bible Book of Faith

Roger Anderson, Bible Book of Faith Synod Advocate

biblebookoffaith@lutheransnw.org

Augsburg Fortress recently published the *Book of Faith Lenten Journey. Seven Wonders of the Word.* Kathryn Kleinhans who teaches at Wartburg College in Waverly, IA, is the author of this volume.

The book is 118 pages and covers the entire Lenten season, except Sundays. The theme, seven wonders of the Word, is used each week to convey a different word.

The volume is listed at $9.99 for 1-19 copies and $7.99 for over 19 copies. Visit the Augsburg Fortress website to see more about the volume and order it for a Lenten journey.

Here 'n There

- The 10th Annual Bainbridge Island/North Kitsap Interfaith Community Choral Festival was held on February 13. This choir concert brings together singers from Bainbridge Island's faith communities, including Baha'l, St. Cecilia, Rolling Bay, Bethany and others.
- **Cindy Moe-Lobeda, wife of Pastor Ron Lobeda, University in Seattle,** was selected as the 2011-2013 Wismer Professor for Gender and Diversity at Seattle University.
- There is an ark sitting in the sanctuary at **Gloria Dei in Alderwood Manor.** How can that be? Jonas and Mary Hawk built the Ark, with animals ready for sailing. It was built to commemorate the animals the Sunday School offerings will purchase for families around the world through Heifer International.
- **The youth at First in Richmond Beach** will hold a 30-hour famine at the end of February. Leading up to the event the youth will raise money for hungry children around the world and participate in service projects.
- Many churches in the Renton community have banded together to create housing for homeless men in their midst. The name for this endeavor is A.R.I.S.E. (Area of Renton Interfaith Shelter Endeavor). In March **Lakeridge in Renton** will be hosting up to 30 men each evening. Several Lutheran congregations in that cluster have agreed to help provide a hot meal for these men each evening. **Lord of Life in Renton** will be responsible for cooking and serving eight meals that month. They will also provide sack lunches and breakfasts.
- **Pastor Mary Lindberg** wrote an article for the January issue of The Lutheran called *One For You.* You can find the article on page 20.

Within Our Family

We continue To Hold In Our Prayers:

- † **The Rev. Mary Bosell, On Disability**
- † **The Rev. John Ericksen (ret.)** and his wife, Marita
- † **The Rev. Phil Petrasek (ret.)** and his wife Linda
- † **The Rev. Paul Wuest (ret.)**
- † **The Rev. Wayne Bacus,** Queen Anne, Seattle

Pray For:

† The family of Susan Lear, **mother of Pamela Nel and Mother-in-Law of the Rev. Dr. Michael Nel (ret.)**. Susan died on January 22 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. The Memorial Service was held on January 31 at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Langley, BC. Cards may be sent to: Pamela and Michael Nel, 67 -9012 Walnut Grove Dr, Langley, BC V1M 2K3.

† The family of **the Rev. William Vaswig (ret.).** Rev Vaswig died on January 23. He was a member of Shepherd of the Hills, Issaquah. A service to commemorate his life is planned.

† The family of **Helen Farrell, Associate in Ministry (ret.).** Helen died on December 31 following a long struggle with dementia. Cards may be sent to her daughter, Colleen Farrell at 20432 - 78th Pl W, Edmonds WA 98026.

† **Jyoti Mutschler, daughter of Catherine Mutschler, Associate in Ministry,** Faith of North Lakewood, is still in the hospital at the UW Medical Center in Seattle. She entered the hospital in July of 2010. Both Jyoti and her mother Cathy have had a long and difficult journey that will not be over soon. Detailed information about Jyoti's mysterious illness, treatment and her beginning

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Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
Thomas Hamren	Shepherd of the Valley, Startup	2/1/2011
Cindy Salo	Central, Seattle	1/30/2011
Leaving/Joining the ELCA		
Grant Gard (ret.)	Camano Island	12/3/2010
St Paul's of Shorewood	Seattle	1/9/2011
Deaths		
Helen Farrell, Associate in Ministry	Edmonds	12/31/2011
William Vaswig	Seattle	1/23/2011
Transfers in/out of Synod		
Karen Bloomquist	From Metro Chicago Synod	1/26/2011
William Strehlow	From Metro Chicago Synod	1/26/2011

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Within Our Family

recovery process can be found at: http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jyotimutschler/journal/1. Cards may be sent to: Cathy and Jyoti Mutschler, Faith Lutheran Church, PO Box 70, North Lakewood, WA 98259-0070

Prayers of Thanksgiving

† **The Rev. Robert Winkel (ret.)** asked that we join him in prayers of thanksgiving for the successful kidney transplant his wife Sally recently underwent. Cards may be sent to: Bob and Sally Winkel PO Box 1209, Kingston, WA 98346.

† Juniper Claire Marsh was born on February 10 to **Ryan Marsh, Synodically Authorized Minister, and his wife Bonnie.** Cards may be sent to: The Marsh Family, Church of the Beloved, PO Box 1953, Edmonds, WA 98020.

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current, Interim/Supply Pastor
Arlington, Our Saviour	PR	P	Paul Anderson, Interim
Bellevue, St. Andrew's	A/SP	P	James McEachran, Pastor
Bellingham, Our Saviour's	PR	P	Supply
Burien, Glendale	PR	NV	Red Burchfield, Interim eff 3/1/2011
Des Moines, Grace	A/SP	C	John O'Neal, Pastor
Duvall, Lord of Life	PR	NV	Supply
Ferndale, Christ	PR	I	Christen Anderson, Interim
Monroe, Morning Star	PR	TR	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim
Mount Vernon, Fir-Conway	PR	TR	Michael Swain, Interim
Nooksack, Clearbrook	PR	TR	Supply
Point Roberts, Trinity Community	PR	TR	Supply
Renton, Lord of Life	PR	P	Phil Reitz, Interim
Seattle, Faith	PR	P	Red Burchfield, Interim
Seattle, Gethsemane	PR	TR	Maynard Atik, Interim
Seattle, Magnolia	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
Stanwood, Freeborn	PR	TR	Supply

Mobility Position Key:

PR = Pastor
A = Associate
AIM = Associate in Ministry
DM = Diaconal Minister
A/SP = Associate with Special Emphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I = Interviewing
C = Calling
NV = New Vacancy
V = Vacancy
SC = Synod Call
TR = Transition process
P = Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO = Div for Outreach Transformation Process